

THE

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ONE PENNY

The Question

"How is it that this country, so full of natural riches and so well placed in natural seaports for competing with any other country in the world, should be unable to employ its own population?"—LLOYD GEORGE, at Swansea.

THE columns of this paper will be chiefly devoted to the consideration of this question, and to the advocacy and propagation of Conservative principles. For the last thirty or forty years these principles have found very few, if any, exponents in the House of Commons, or in the so-called Conservative press of this country.

Since the passing of Lord Beaconsfield's Reform Bill, every political section in Parliament, or out of it, has apparently been dominated by but one idea, namely, to secure the votes of the masses, at any price, and at any cost to the true interests of the country. The State has been left in the position of a ship without rudder, chart or compass, at the mercy of every passing gale. From a political point of view this abnegation of principle has completely failed to obtain the desired object, the efforts of each party in turn having resulted in disaster to themselves.

By the destruction of confidence, not only has capital been frightened from our shores, but employment from our country, and in this manner a deadly blow has been struck at national prosperity.

Broadly speaking, this is the answer to Mr. Lloyd George's question, but the many other causes operating detrimentally to the interests of the nation and directly arising from political action demand exhaustive enumeration and criticism. In commenting on these causes, we intend to remind our readers of those old principles which, when recognised and acted on by the legislature and people, not only enabled England to employ her population, but by so doing made her the foremost commercial country in the world.

In those days such a question as Mr. Lloyd George now asks would have been a meaningless absurdity.

The adoption of Free Trade and the administration of the Education Act of 1870, with its subsequent amendments, added to the disastrous cumulative legislative measures which have been piled one on the other in the senile attempt to gain votes, have now, unfortunately, rendered Mr. Lloyd George's question of paramount and vital importance, and one which it is impossible to ignore.

The actions of the present Government generally, and of Mr. Lloyd George in particular, have greatly tended to

accentuate the effect of this legislation, and the latter gentleman has, by his actions and speeches, supplied a most effective answer to his own question.

It must be obvious to the meanest capacity that his attack on capital has acted as a direct discouragement to its investment in this country, and without such investment the demand for labour has continued to decline.

Enterprise of every kind has been discouraged, no man being sure that some Socialistic legislation may not have the effect of destroying in a moment an undertaking to the promotion and ultimate success of which many years of his life may have been devoted. The finest chess player in the world can do but little if the rules of the game are being constantly altered whilst he is contending with his opponent.

Having produced the evils they profess to deplore, the Radicals avoid responsibility by dubbing them "Social Problems," at the same time generously offering to devote their great minds to the elucidation of these problems.

The solutions they discover are characterised by a deadly monotony, for they invariably begin and end by proposals to base the future prosperity of the country on its ability to exist on its own rates and taxes, and by the abandonment of all reliance on honest labour.

They fail to perceive that by making the investment of capital unremunerative, and thus driving it from our shores, they are depriving the working classes of their bread, and by producing a hundred evils for one they are attempting to ameliorate, they are constantly running in the same vicious circle.

They fail to see that by increasing taxation they are causing a decrease of industrial undertakings, and by thus placing the increased burden on fewer shoulders they are creating a position which is not only intolerable but is fast becoming impossible.

Unfortunately, legislation based on these ideas has not been confined to the Radical party. They were the originators, but the Conservative party when in power allied themselves with this policy, and thereby succeeded in impressing the rank and file of their supporters with the belief that politics is a mere game of "Ins and Outs."

The Conservative leaders seem to have completely forgotten that they were sent to Parliament to represent Conservative principles, and in accordance with those principles to initiate legislation for the welfare of the country, and not to treat great national interests as though they were mere pawns in the party game.

The sooner the Conservative leaders recognise that the



days of "running with the hare and hunting with the hounds" are over, and the sooner these leaders exhibit more backbone and acquire more worldly wisdom, the better it will be, not only for the party, but for the country at large.

Nothing can better illustrate our meaning than a reference to the present attitude of the Conservative leaders in regard to the recent action of the House of Lords.

That House has just done yeoman service to the country by allowing the people to express an opinion on a Budget specially prepared for the inauguration of the Socialist régime.

The result proved that more than 100 constituencies were misrepresented, and would have continued for some years to remain so misrepresented had it not been for the action of the Upper House.

One would have imagined that this fact would have been proclaimed by the Conservative leaders and their allies from the very house-tops. An opposite policy was, however, adopted, and those leaders, to all intents and purposes, joined in the hue and cry raised by their opponents against the Upper House. They apparently considered that, as Mr. Lloyd George was hounding on his followers to attack the House of Lords root and branch, it was their duty to go part of the way with him and to impress their adherents with the idea that, even if its abolition were unnecessary, its immediate reform was of paramount importance. It is generally considered a mark of good sense to refrain from changing horses when crossing a stream, but the act of changing them in the deepest part of the stream is usually regarded as an act of imbecility. Are the Conservative rank and file to understand that the House of Lords has done something wrong? Are they to believe that in consequence of some tortious act recently committed by the Upper House Mr. Lloyd George is to a great extent justified in his onslaught, and that in consequence the instantancous reform of that House has been rendered imperative? We can only say that by this action the Conservative leaders have created a position directly tending towards the disintegration of the party.

If a Conservative victory is to be won at the General Election, it is necessary that the issues placed before the electors should be clear and defined. To go before them with a hundred and one suggestions for breaking up the last stronghold this country possesses for the protection of the freedom of its people, and for the maintenance of its prosperity as a commercial nation, is simply to court defeat. Without such a defined policy, it is impossible to enthuse the electorate, and especially when it is perfectly obvious that the leaders are irretrievably mixing themselves up with the politics of the other side.

It is well known that during an election the Radicals invariably work much harder than the Conservatives, and the reason is not far to seek. The former know well that, however wild and foolish, and however inimical to national interests their proposals may be, their Government, if returned to power, will endeavour to pass them into law. On the other hand, the Conservatives can hope for nothing from their Government. They have been taught by bitter experience during the many years in which their party have

been in power that they must look in vain for any attempt at constructive Conservative legislation.

The Radicals are constantly pursuing an aggressive warfare, whilst the Conservative opposition content themselves with mild protests, compromise, and anything which their short-sighted simplicity leads them to hope will attract votes. Both sides have become mere opportunists, and, so far as the Conservative leaders are concerned, they have shown themselves exceedingly bad judges of opportunities.

Conservative electors find themselves placed between Scylla and Charybdis, for if they succeed in returning their Government to power, they become practically disfranchised, and are impotent to prevent their leaders from introducing Radical or semi-Radical measures. To legislation of this kind there is no opposition to which appeal can be made, and Conservatives thus find themselves helpless and placed at the mercy of their opponents. On the other hand, if by their supineness they stand aloof and allow the Radicals to enjoy a walk-over as in 1906, they become practically subjected to mob rule.

That the country is Conservative to the backbone is shown by the fact that both parties have invariably been turned out of office whenever the country has had an opportunity of expressing an opinion on their vote-catching measures—with one striking exception, and that was the "Khaki" election of 1900, when the Conservatives were returned for a second period owing to the enthusiasm engendered by the war fever. This gave the Conservative Government twelve years' lease of power, and their supporters, who had been compelled to suffer during this long period, at last rebelled, and practically allowed their Government to rely for support upon that Radical vote for which they had been so persistently angling. Some of the electors exhibited complete apathy, others open hostility, and to this cause, and to this cause alone, is the *débâcle* of 1906 to be ascribed.

### THE HEREDITARY PRINCIPLE AND THE THRONE

Let the Radical opponents of the hereditary principle of the House of Lords answer the question asked by the great commoner Sir Robert Peel: "When you have abolished the House of Peers, how long do you think the privileges of hereditary monarchy will survive?" The Radicals, or at least a section of them, strenuously deny that the attack on the House of Lords bears any relation to the Throne, but the chief Radical organ has, unconsciously or otherwise, shown the true significance of Radical tactics. Commenting on Lord Halsbury's speech in the Lords on the previous day, the *Daily News* of March 23rd states that:—

"Lord Halsbury argued unanswerably that the attack upon the hereditary principle is an attack upon the landed system and upon the Throne itself."

We are glad to have this confirmation of all we have said as to the real intentions of the Radicals and their Socialist friends.

In his "Life of Gladstone," Lord Morley prints from his diary under the date of December 22nd, 1891, the following note of a conversation with Mr. Gladstone:—

"Talk about the dangerous isolation in which the Monarchy will find itself in England if the hereditary principle goes down in the House of Lords; 'it will stand bare, naked, with no shelter or shield, only endured as the better of two evils.'"—Vol. III. p. 470.

Mr. Keir Hardie has told us that the terms Radical and Republican are synonymous, and Mr. Churchill, in his pre-Radical days, said the same thing in his own forcible way.



## Educational Tyranny

We have now had forty years' experience of the working of the Education Act of 1870, and we have no hesitation in saying that the administration of that Act has entailed more suffering and starvation on the working classes of this country, and has exercised a more prejudicial effect on the prosperity of the nation at large, than any measure which has hitherto found its way to the Statute Book. Under its malign influence the physique, mental powers and general virility of the race have distinctly declined, and the degeneration so caused has been effected at a cost to the country of some £30,000,000 per annum. Colossal as this sum is, it is a mere bagatelle when compared with the incalculable number of millions which have also been lost by the simultaneous sacrifice of the earning power of our youthful population.

It is possible that even this enormous expenditure might be condoned if any good effect could be demonstrated, but unfortunately the only visible results are exhibited in general and ever-increasing symptoms of decadence. The evidence of this has been so pronounced that Parliament, within the last few years, was compelled to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the cause.

The Education Act was heralded with the usual flourish of Radical trumpets, and Parliament was informed that the cost of the administration of the Act would never exceed one halfpenny in the pound on the rates, and that this modest sum would be amply repaid by the general enlightenment of the working classes. The country was assured that when people were educated there would be no more strikes, and even crime would be so greatly diminished that the cost of the police would be materially reduced. We were regaled with similar fairy stories on the introduction of Free Trade, and the hollowness of the promises in one case has only been equalled by that of the other.

We state emphatically that these millions have been expended not in educating, but in unfitting, our youth for their duties in life. The result is that the children of our working population have been prevented from learning their future business, at the only period in which it is possible to educate them for the varied avocations for which they are intended by nature and circumstances. In other words, the annually increasing millions we are expending are employed in the creation of a race entirely unfitted to cope with the stern realities of existence.

It is perfectly obvious that the majority of the children of our working classes are destined to rely on manual labour, in the same manner as their parents before them. We are deliberately preparing these children for this work by cramming them with poetry, painting, astronomy, fiddling, etc., all taught in so superficial a manner as to be absolutely worthless, and therefore certain in the large majority of cases to be entirely forgotten within a few months of leaving school.

In the days when England was the foremost country in the world, Parliament held a tight rein on the national purse-strings, but in the present day any local busy-bodies who can manage to obtain seats on the County Council find themselves invested with the right to spend the national resources at their own sweet will and pleasure, and to introduce and pay for any new imbecilities they may choose to indulge in, so long as they are labelled "education." The provisions of the Act have been carried out in the most merciless manner.

No exceptions are made or allowed, although it must be evident that the mental powers and stamina of children vary to an enormous extent, yet the law ordains that these varied and delicate organisations must all be thrust through the same cast-iron sieve, let the consequences be what they may.

For the purpose of analogy, let us suppose for a moment that the Government were endowed with a despotic control over the owners of all dogs in the United Kingdom, so far as the training of these animals was concerned. Let us suppose also that members of the Government paid a visit to Aintree during the annual coursing meeting, and became so greatly impressed with the speed, grace and agility exhibited by the greyhounds, and the valuable nature of the prizes offered for competition, that they decided that all dogs should be provided with an equal opportunity of competing, and in furtherance of this idea they ordained that all these animals should be subjected to the same training as the greyhound. The owners would naturally reply: "We own hundreds of thousands of dogs, but only a very small proportion of them are greyhounds. We own retrievers, which we train to follow slowly at the heels of a man with a gun. We own collies, which we train for the purpose of collecting sheep; and a hundred and one other species of dogs, all suited for different purposes, each requiring different training and education, and, above all, early training. If nature had intended these animals for speed, she would have formed them on different lines; but she obviously meant them for other work, and that is the work for which we require them. If they were all subjected to the greyhound's training, it would kill a large number, injure many more, and render the dogs worthless, for after the period required for the greyhound training had elapsed, it would be impossible to train them for our work." No sane Government could disregard the unanswerable logic of this reply.

Our Governments, in their wisdom, have persisted in ignoring the protests of parents, based upon similar arguments. Not the slightest opportunity has been given to parents for separating the greyhounds in their families from the spaniels, pugs, and poodles, and, as is usually the case in this species of legislation, intense misery and all-round suffering has been the result.

Let us consider the position as it affects a widow left, say, with a baby and a child of ten years of age; this poor creature being in her own person the recipient of all the happiness and blessings bestowed by the Education Act is compelled to elect whether she will become a criminal or starve. If she earns her living by washing or charring, she is naturally compelled to leave her elder child at home to attend to the baby, and for this offence is dragged before a magistrate, fined, and, being utterly without means, is sent to prison. If she obeys the law and stays at home while her elder child goes to school, she is confronted with starvation or the workhouse. This woman's feelings may be better imagined than described when she remembers that her present misery is endured for the express purpose of bequeathing similar wretchedness to her children.

The Conservatives introduced an Act for relieving fad-dists who have conscientious objections to the Vaccination Act from its operation on making a sworn statement before a magistrate. But in such a case as we have referred to no one in Parliament has suggested a means of affording the slightest alleviation.

Surely, if Parliament has relieved conscientious objectors at the risk of the spread of smallpox, some relief might be afforded to sufferers under the Education Act, and although



a movement in this direction might possibly destroy the hypothetical chance possessed by a lapdog of successfully competing with a greyhound, there would, at all events, be no danger of spreading disease throughout the whole kennel.

That the legislature should have insisted upon depriving parents of all parental rights is an act of pure despotism. Parents must surely know better than Parliament the nature, constitution, disposition and intellectual power of the various members of their own families.

To deprive them of the power of discriminating between these varied constitutions and temperaments is to reduce the poor to a state of mere slavery. The upper and middle classes enjoy liberty and freedom in regard to educational matters, while the poor are absolutely deprived of it, and it seems incredible that this glaring inequality should have been allowed to exist for so long a period without comment or protest.

The poor are compelled to suffer in silence, having no means of making their grievances known.

In Parliament the Radicals, being the great pioneers of the Education movement, will hear nothing against it, and the Conservatives, unfortunately, have joined in the conspiracy of silence. One of the main objects of this paper is to give people an opportunity of expressing their opinion on this vitally important subject, and its columns will, therefore, be open to any correspondence which may be addressed to us.

In order to show that the question of educational tyranny is no new one, we append the following letter, which appeared in the *School Guardian* as long ago as 1883. This is merely an example of the communications with which the newspapers literally teemed at that period, and although similar cases are even now constantly occurring no protest appears in the Press. The following letter is headed:—

"Board School, Pesnett, Dudley.

"SIR,—Will you kindly find room for the following narrative? In passing through the Standard I. room yesterday morning during the recess, about eleven o'clock, I observed a little girl crying, and evidently very unwell, in a corner of the room. Without delay I sent her home, in charge of another girl, cancelling her attendance. In coming to school this morning, a little after eight, I was informed to my horror that she died about five o'clock.

"After twelve, I went direct to the house, and was informed by her sorrowing parents of the nature and symptoms of her illness. During the time, she talked and raved over her school work, uttering occasionally, almost with her last breath, 'I can't do it; I can't do it!' I then went to her medical attendant, a gentleman highly respected in this neighbourhood, who has kindly furnished me with the following certificate:—

"This is to certify that I was called in on November 8, 1883, to attend Sophia Raybould, aged six and a half years, who died this morning, after nineteen hours' suffering, from acute meningitis and convulsions. My opinion is that the present system of cramming children under the Education Act now in existence is very injurious to the brains of children of such tender years. I have had similar cases to the above, previously.

"I may add that this is my second victim. What sufferings and misery may have been undergone by others to whom death may not have brought relief none can tell."

"Mr. Mundella may discredit, statesmen may ignore, inspectors, after twenty years' experience, may deny the existence of a single case of high pressure; but facts are against them. How can they know from an annual visit to a school? They guess and grope; we see and know. This fresh appeal to their attention and sympathy will probably pass, as hundreds of like cases have passed before. But of this I am sure, that unless our appeal is listened to, and at no distant date, a Higher than man will, by some rude awakening which we little anticipate, step in and save us from the scenes of torture and misery of which we are daily the unwilling witnesses.

"(Signed)

"DAVID CLARK."

## The Educational Inquisition

The following examples of educational tyranny are taken from a work on the subject by the Hon. E. Pomeroy. We append Mr. Pomeroy's comments.\*

"*Daily Express*," July 1st, 1909.

"LIFE ON 3½D. A WEEK.

"CHILD STARVED TO DEATH IN HOXTON.

"Death from starvation and destitution, owing to the inability of the parents to provide food,' was the verdict returned at the inquest yesterday on Charles Leaning, the three-year-old child of an out-of-work scaffolder, living at Westmorland Place, Hoxton.

"The father said he had been unemployed for nine weeks. His wife made boxes, earning five or six shillings a week, and on this, he, his wife, and five children lived.

"As four shillings a week was paid for the rent of two rooms the family's weekly budget was as follows:—

"To rent .....	4s.
To living .....	2s.

"Seven living on 2s. a week allows an average expenditure of 3½d. per week for each.

"When the child died the mother was at the police-court, where she was fined five shillings for not sending one of the children to school. As she could not pay, her husband was sent to prison.

"The woman has fought her hardest against adversity,' an inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children stated. 'The home is terribly poor, but, such as it is, it is being kept together by her.

"Some of the children have no boots or stockings, and they are scantily clad. There are only a few chairs and a table in the place, with nothing on the floor, but the rooms are as clean as she can keep them in the limited time at her disposal."

"I have often applied for relief,' Mrs. Leaning told the coroner, 'but I do not like to do that—they "chip" you so.'

### COMMENTS.

I prefer not to make any. The iniquitous Education Act and the interminable restrictions on child labour are responsible for many such cases. Our legislators are the direct cause, and without them such cases would not occur. Mr. Balfour in 1902 raised the maximum fine for non-attendance at school from 5s., including costs, to £1, including costs, presumably as being better adapted for such a case as the above.

The Labour members have never said a word in any of these or similar cases. They are too busy shouting for payment of members and for old-age pensions.

"*Daily Telegraph*," April 23rd, 1909.

"AMAZING PROCEEDINGS.

"Arthur Rogers, a school teacher under the London Education Committee, of Warwick Road, Edmonton, was summoned at Tottenham yesterday in respect of the non-attendance of his two children at school. The case had previously been before the Court, and had been adjourned in order that the children might be examined as to their knowledge by the headmaster of a local school, the defendant having contended that they were being educated at home. This, however, had not been done. The Bench ordered that one of the children should be sent to a truant school, and they fined the defendant 20s., or fourteen days in respect of the other."

### COMMENTS.

This is one of the countless incredible cases that have occurred under the mischievous Education Acts. I wrote to Mr. Rogers at once, and received the following reply:—

"A month ago I was summoned on account of my two boys, Arthur and Leonard, and I stated on oath that they were being privately instructed at home. An examination was ordered, and this was fixed for April 19th. On this date Arthur was unfortunately very ill, and I wrote to the Educational Authority to that effect. Later in the week I asked the superintendent to ask for an adjournment of the case, and so save me the need of attending the Court. This he agreed to do, and I was asked to send a messenger to the Court with a medical certificate. Unfortunately, the doctor was out when they went to get the certificate, and, in consequence, it failed to reach the Court, and in my absence and the absence of the doctor's certificate, the magistrates gave the decision as reported in the papers. I have written

\* "The Education Tyranny." By Ernest Pomeroy. Published by Messrs. J. G. Hammond and Co., Ltd., 32-36, Fleet Lane, E.C.



to the clerk of the justices protesting, and asking that the case may be reheard."

The Clerk replied that the case could not be re-opened. But surely the education superintendent—one Yarrow—who conducted the case might have informed the Bench of the letter sent him and his promise, and asked for an adjournment. In any case, the sentence is monstrous, and not in conformity with the law, there having been no evidence that the father was *not* providing education, and he had previously stated on oath that he was. He was also a school teacher under the London Education Committee, and presumably they would not have engaged him to teach the young unless his statements on oath afforded at least a presumption of veracity. The Home Secretary, whom I applied to, informed me on the 28th May, after an interval of a little over a month, that he could not, consistently with his public duty, interfere in the matter. Consequently, Arthur Rogers is confined in the industrial school, Walthamstow, till he is 14 (he is now 12), and on leaving this place he will be tainted as an industrial school lad, whom few employers wish to employ, and whose general bearing usually resembles that of a thief.

More is to come. On May 4th I received a letter from Mr. Rogers, dated May 3rd, 1909, 2 p.m. :—

"My wife has just come to me with the information that at half-past eight this morning two officers called at our house and bodily carried my boy, Arthur, away to the Walthamstow Industrial School. They wouldn't allow the lad time to wash, but forced him away from home as he was. What *is* one to do? I should like to fight them, but I have been fined £3 15s. within a few months, and I really am not in a position to go on with the contest. These people have the power, and have apparently no scruples as to the manner in which it shall be used."

On May 17th, by special messenger, I received another letter from Mr. Rogers, dated May 17th, 1909, 6.30 p.m. :—

"Further trouble. I refrained from paying fines in protest, and not expecting anything to happen before next pay day. This morning I was taken from my bed and am now on my way to Pentonville Prison. I can think of no one to appeal to but yourself. Could you wire my fine to the prison, so that I may get away to my work?"

I found this letter in my chambers when I came in, in the afternoon, and I at once took a taxicab up to Pentonville and bailed Mr. Rogers out. But Mr. Rogers' treatment goes on all over England. In the police reports you may read, "Fined 10s. and costs," or £1, as the case may be, but few parents can pay this, and they are eventually carted off to gaol for 14 days or a month. Three others—working men—went to Pentonville with Mr. Rogers, so he told me.

"*Lincoln Gazette*," November 28th, 1908.

"SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TRAGEDIES.

"SPILSBY PETTY SESSIONS.

(Monday—Before Mr. W. D. Gainsford (In the Chair). Mr. J. W. Walker, Mr. M. Staniland, Mr. H. Walker, and Mr. F. Kirkby.)

"Mr. H. Witty, school attendance officer, summoned William Tempest, a Midville labourer, for not sending his children, Edward (12), and Arthur (10), regularly to school, and also for unlawfully employing them. Mr. Witty found the boys working in a field, taking up mangolds for their father. The boys had each made 36 attendances out of a possible 59. The father said he only kept them away when they were sick, and he had them in the fields 'because he wanted the money.'

"The Bench dealt *leniently* with defendant, as he said he had a large family and a sick wife, fining him 15s. and costs in each case—a total of 10s.

"Defendant said he could not pay unless he starved his wife and family, but eventually, on the advice of the clerk, he offered 'to try and pay' 2s. 6d. a week, which the Bench allowed."

COMMENTS.

The "dealt leniently" seems a cruel satire when a father is fined 10s. because his boys help him in the fields. To good sons it is almost compulsory. What's more, under the conditions that come out in the brief report, the man is well within his legal rights. I paid his fine for him, and from his letter to me I am exceedingly glad that I did so. He had, I think, nine children and an invalid wife, and then the attendance prowler, to gain a few extra pence for himself on increased attendance, causes the man to be robbed of 10s., and the education gang tell him that it is for the children's good!

## A "Fourth Estate" of the Realm

Mr. Asquith has announced that in certain eventualities he proposes to ask the King to create five or six hundred new Peers. Never previously has a Minister of the Crown deliberately threatened to drag that Crown into the mire of party politics. The Prime Minister suggests that the King should virtually create a "Fourth Estate" of the Realm, and by thus reconstructing, or rather destroying, the Constitution, he proposes to supply the means of compelling the nation to remain for all time under the iron heel of Radical despotism.

Mr. Asquith does not scruple to announce that if the Lords refuse at his dictation to perform the operation of *hari-kari*, he will take steps to compel them.

Let us inquire into the reasons which have inspired this insolent threat. It appears that a colleague of Mr. Asquith's, a certain Welsh demagogue, designedly prepared a Budget so impossible that it would be incumbent on the House of Lords to obtain the opinion of the country before allowing it to become law. The English people replied by transferring so many of the Government seats to their opponents that the passing of the measure became impossible, unless the assistance of their Irish Home Rule masters could be obtained.

A bargain was then struck between the parties, the Government, to all intents and purposes, saying to the Irish party :

"If you will vote for our Budget, we will give you Home Rule. You remember when Home Rule for Ireland was introduced by a previous Radical Government, the House of Lords rejected the Bill, and the English nation confirmed their decision. This time we will see that neither the Lords nor the English people have any say in the matter, because if the former refuse to accept our Veto resolutions we will not scruple to drag the Throne itself into the controversy, and, if His Majesty declines to assist us, we propose to put it plainly to him that we intend to render the government of the country impossible, and we are deliberately doing all this for the purpose of dragging the Lords, and eventually the Throne, into our Welshman's trap."

Let us see what would happen, if Mr. Asquith's threat were carried into effect, and if His Majesty consented to be drawn into this contemptible squabble. Let us suppose a new creation of five or six hundred Peers, for the express purpose of placing the country for all time under Socialistic Radicalism.

What would be the position of the Conservatives on being returned to power and finding their measures blocked? What alternative would they have but to go to the King and say :

"Your Majesty has been pleased to create Peers in such numbers as to practically prevent Conservative legislation for all time. We therefore pray that your Majesty will now be pleased to create a similar number of Conservative Peers in order to avoid this palpable injustice, so that we may be enabled to carry measures, which are desired by the majority of the people of this country at the present time."

How would it be possible for His Majesty to refuse their request, without assuming the rôle of a despotic ruler? If he were to decline to give equal assistance to both sides, it must follow that the party he had assisted, although itself in the minority, would, in spite of the expressed opinion of the country, be able to perpetually exercise despotic control over the majority.

If the King were to consent to oblige both parties, the result would be that Peers in England would be as plentiful as "leaves in Vallambrosa."



# Plain Talk to Working Men

## No. 1

Please do not imagine that this paper is published in the interests of the Conservative party. We wish to draw a decided distinction between the views held by the ordinary Conservative member of Parliament and those he is compelled to adopt by the order of his official leaders in London.

That party, in our opinion, has entirely misunderstood the feelings of the working classes and absolutely underrated their intelligence.

Perhaps after reading our remarks some of you may consider that we are Tories. Well, we do not object to the name when we remember that in the days when Tory principles prevailed, all classes in the country were happier and far more prosperous than they are at present.

A working-man was in those days proud to be able to call himself an Englishman, and believed, and rightly believed, that he was a member of the freest nation on earth, but England has now become the most law-ridden country in the world. The workman's freedom ceases at the age of five, when he becomes subjected to the thralldom of the Board-school, and during every subsequent day of his life he becomes more and more enslaved by the despotic Radicalism which surrounds him, and which is ever forging fresh fetters.

§ § §

These fetters consist of measures which are continually being evolved from the Parliamentary machine like water from an endless bottle, and simply amount to a repetition of "You shall do this!" and "You shall not do that!" Radicalism and Socialism are synonymous terms for despotism, and, moreover, despotism of the very worst kind. Men who happen to be possessed of what is vulgarly called "the gift of the gab" succeed in persuading their fellow-creatures that this despotism is all for the people's good, whereas in reality it is simply for the good of the professional agitators.

These agitators are not only often returned to Parliament, but are provided with means for their subsistence. They are enabled to visit foreign countries, and, occasionally, go round the world, travelling first-class and generally adopting the manners of the rich whose habits they profess to despise. All this is done at the expense of honest labour.

§ § §

Amongst other things, these people, by acting in concert with the Radical Government, have deprived the working-classes of a right which nature has herself bestowed on the very meanest of her creatures, namely, the right of control over their own progeny.

We have expressed our views on this subject in the article on the Education Act of 1870. Some of you were born, and had made your start in life, before that Act came into operation.

Do any of you imagine that, if you had been born ten years later, and had come under the influence of the Act, you would be better or happier men than you are now? Have you ever regretted that you were not so born? Do you think that you would have been endowed with a finer physique or superior mental powers to those you now possess? Do you ever compare yourselves with the younger generation of the present day, who have enjoyed all the so-called advantages of the Act? Do you think that in any way the younger generation of workpeople are superior to yourselves? Do you, in your heart of hearts, believe that they are your equals, or ever will be?

§ § §

In the days when you were born, nothing was heard of these dreadful stories of unemployment. At that period, if a man was reduced to penury, it was, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, his own fault, but he is now called upon to face starvation or the workhouse through no fault of his own. In the old days, workmen were enabled to rise, become managers, capitalists and owners of commercial

undertakings, members of Parliament, and sometimes peers of the realm; but under the present educational system men who are born workmen die workmen.

The Education Act is a foretaste of the freedom and happiness which the Radicals are preparing for you in the future, and there is very much more of the same kind in store. A considerable number of the Radical-Socialist party, are now proposing to deprive you of the assistance of your children's labour until the age of sixteen has been attained, and if you insist on voting for these people, you will find that ere long your children will not be allowed to support themselves or help to support you until they have reached the age of manhood!

§ § §

The Radicals are constantly trying to impress you with the idea that by attacking capital and frightening it away from the country, they are doing you a great service, but they have never pointed out the source from which you will draw your weekly wages when they have successfully accomplished their object.

They are at present engaged in attacking the House of Lords, which is the only barrier existing between you and their tyranny. The Radicals complain that the House of Lords have refused to pass some of their measures, but the real fault of the Lords has consisted in passing too many, and not too few.

Unfortunately, at the bidding of the present Government, they have allowed certain measures to become law which are a disgrace to the Statute Book, and in the future columns of this paper we shall draw your attention to these Acts and to their effects upon your liberty. We refer particularly to the Trades Disputes Act, 1906, and the Eight Hours Bill. These and many other measures of a similar nature form so many links in the chain of slavery to which you are now being subjected, and if the House of Lords protects you by refusing to pass these Bills, the Radicals immediately proceed to stomp the country, and declare that that House is opposing the "will of the people"!

§ § §

In spite of all we have said against the action of the official Conservative party, we can assure you that the only way to rid yourselves of Radical tyranny is to support Conservative candidates at the next election.

You have only to let these candidates distinctly understand that, having been born free, you intend to remain so, and that if you find them assisting the other side in enacting laws for your enslavement they will no longer receive your support.

Conservative politicians are foolish enough to take so-called Labour members at their own valuation, and imagine that the only way to get into Parliament is to support the Bills of that party.

Tell them that you object to the tyranny of Labour legislation, and that if you want Radical measures you can obtain all you require, and more, by voting for Radical candidates.

If you intend to uphold your freedom and reserve to yourselves not only the right to exercise parental control over your own children, but also the right you possess as free-born Englishmen to dispose of your labour for as long or as short a period as you may think fit, then we ask you to vote for the Conservatives.

Do not, however, allow candidates, directly they become members of Parliament through your vote, to turn round and support the very measures you have elected them to oppose. Make it clear to them that you intend them if elected to carry out your wishes, and they in turn will soon make it clear to the official Conservative party in London that your orders will have to be obeyed. Tell them that you insist upon their demanding a Royal Commission to inquire into the present administration of the Education Act, and unless they will so pledge themselves, tell them you will not vote for them.

We intend shortly to point out to you the alterations in the law which we think ought to be made; but your first practical step should consist in a demand for the appointment of a Royal Commission.



## A Review of Free Trade

BY A CONTRIBUTOR.

That England enjoyed a protracted run of prosperity, commencing soon after the introduction of Free Trade, cannot for a moment be denied; and to this fact is probably due the almost superstitious reverence attached to it by a large number of people in this country, who apparently regard its doctrines as so many inspirations vouchsafed for the special benefit of the people of England, to be received unhesitatingly and with becoming feelings of veneration and thankfulness.

I shall take leave, however, to observe that nothing supernatural has occurred, and that, although our guiding star of trade is and has been perfectly perceptible to other nations for more than half a century, they one and all refuse to recognise it as a reliable beacon, and are continually removing themselves farther and farther from its influence.

This being so, ought we not at once to abandon the cloak of self-conceit and obstinacy with which we are vainly endeavouring to hide the nakedness of the land, and by relinquishing the meagre comfort derived from this deceptive garment, either place ourselves in a position to regain some of the material prosperity we have lost, or prove to demonstration that the light we are guided by is reliable, and not the mere reflection of a "will-o'-the-wisp," leading us from solid ground, and drawing ever nearer to the centre of the swamp, from which its existence is derived? A thorough examination of the subject would include, among others, the discussion of the following questions, to which, for the present purpose, I shall confine myself.

Did Mr. Cobden advocate the continuance, under existing circumstances, of the system which he inaugurated?

It is perfectly well known that he never for a moment suggested that it could be maintained for any length of time unless adopted by foreign countries. His argument was this: "Let England adopt a policy of Free Trade, exposing the attendant blessings to the full gaze of foreign nations, and the general adoption of its principles must almost immediately follow, and protection will become a thing of the past." This clearly shows that Free Trade originated on a gigantic misconception of its consequential results, and that this country is at present reposing blind confidence in a system which is wanting in the very fundamental principle which was supposed to justify its creation.

How is the increased prosperity which followed the repeal of the Corn Laws to be explained, except upon the supposition that it was the result of Free Trade?

The answer is, that simultaneously with the change of law, the country obtained an enormous advantage over foreign nations by the introduction of railways at a period in which the various products of the said nations were mostly conveyed by means of horses and carts, and that our increase in prosperity was the direct result of this circumstance.

Now, all this has changed, and we have an opportunity of reviewing our position, and estimating the value of Free Trade when shorn of the adventitious aid which accompanied its inauguration.

If the principles of Free Trade are sound, why do we continue to tax certain goods coming into this country?

The only possible reason is, that the country is in want of the money derived from the taxes; but this answer completely annihilates the doctrine of Free Trade. If the country is deriving so much nourishment from five-sixths of a loaf, why should it be deprived of the remaining portion? If the advantages derived from the abolition of the old protective duties so far outweighed the value of their revenue receipts, it is difficult to see why the remaining portion would not be productive of similar results. On the other hand, if our present system of obtaining money by the taxing of certain goods is a correct one, the reason which prevents our obtaining more money by an extension of the process is not particularly obvious.

What steps do we take to convince foreign nations of the truths of the doctrine of Free Trade?

Having placed ourselves on our insular pedestal, we proceed to address them somewhat in this way:—

"We allow you to send goods into this country free, although you tax those we send to you. You doubtless imagine that we are foolish enough thus to allow you to obtain the advantage; but you can make no greater mistake, for the course we are adopting is compelling you indirectly to play into our hands, however much you may labour under a different impression. The fact that our manufacturing industries are steadily passing into your hands in consequence of the system we have adopted does not in the least interfere with the confidence we repose in it, but merely illustrates the extreme subtlety of the reasoning process by which we arrived at its conclusion."

Having harangued them more or less distinctly in this style, we descend from our pedestal, and, approaching them cap in hand, we continue our address in somewhat altered tones. We say, "Although it is true that by taxing our goods you are injuring yourselves, and very materially assisting us, we trust you will not overdo the thing; we do not require too much assistance of the kind; therefore, pray do not ruin yourselves all at once, and make us rich too suddenly; but rather allow these results to come about slowly and naturally, by admitting our goods on your lowest scale of charges, or, in other words, give us what are termed 'most favoured nation clauses.'"

What are the outward and visible signs of the effects of Free Trade in England?

They can be observed in the closing of our iron furnaces, and the loss of an infinite number of industries which previously flourished in this country. They can be observed in the laying waste of large tracts of agricultural land, and in the expatriation of the labourers who once flourished on that land. They can be recognised in our crushing taxation, which, quite independently of the increased burdens being manufactured by Mr. Lloyd George, is required for the purpose of supporting our home markets for the benefit of foreigners, and in our being compelled also to subscribe to the support of their markets, if we desire to trade with them. Above all, they are recognised in England's inability to find employment for the population of the "richest country in the world."

How can the operation of protection be recognised in foreign countries?

It is shown in their ability to employ their workpeople, not only in manufacturing their own necessities, but in manufacturing the necessities required by the English people, and which otherwise would have been produced by English workmen. It is seen in their ability to buy English iron, manufacture it, and send it back to England in the shape of bridges, girders, ship-plates, rails, etc., and thus to undersell the English in their home markets, notwithstanding the fact that the iron has been subjected to the cost of carriage both on the outward and homeward journey.

It follows as a natural consequence that all the money paid to foreign workmen for the manufacture of these articles, and all the money paid for their outward and homeward journeys ought to have been available for English workmen. With these facts staring us in the face, it is ridiculous to suppose that under equal laws any European country could successfully compete with Great Britain, or could deprive it of the power to employ its own population. In the enormous collection of fallacies which the Cobdenites accumulated for the purpose of impressing the English nation with the principle of their doctrine was contained the prophecy that England would become a paradise for the working man, a statement to which the lie is given by every emigrant ship which leaves our country.

To sum up the whole question, it is abundantly clear that our system involves a palpable fallacy. If Free Trade possesses the virtues its advocates claim for it, let us, by abolishing import duties of every sort and kind, and getting rid of the whole of our Customs House expenses, place ourselves in a position to receive the full benefits of the system.

If, on the other hand, we find that the taxation to which English goods are subjected by foreigners acts disastrously on our trade and commerce, we ought at once to take such steps of reprisal as will enable us to make use of the superior advantages with which this country is so richly endowed.



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## Socialists and the Throne

The fact that lunacy is rapidly increasing in this country, is demonstrated by the large number of additional asylums now in course of erection. There is, however, a certain form of mental aberration, not amounting to insanity, but situated very near the border-line, which is spreading even more rapidly, and which is at present entirely uncontrolled. This brain degeneration is manifested in a belief existing in the minds of certain sections of the community that they are individually endowed with mental powers superlatively greater than any the world has hitherto possessed, and which, if allowed free scope, will produce a system of Government not only superior but directly antagonistic to any that the combined wisdom of all nations in all times has been able to evolve.

That Mr. Keir Hardie is painfully afflicted with this malady may be gathered from a recent speech of his delivered at a Liberal demonstration at Tonypany, of which the following is an extract:—

He did not want to see a written Constitution in this country. He had something of a mortal fear of a paper Constitution, the working of which in the United States of America and in our Colonies has shown how reactionary such a document could become. It appeared that the Unionist party intended to fight the next election from behind the shelter of the Throne. Mr. Balfour, in his speech the other day, quoted from a speech of his (Mr. Hardie's), and made it the basis of an assumption that some attack was intended upon the King. His (the speaker's) statement was that the present agitation was being conducted on moderate and constitutional lines, but that if either the Peers or the King indulged in any obscure obstruction of the declared will of the people the next General Election would probably assume quite a different form. Republicanism and Radicalism in this country were practically synonymous terms. He regarded loyalty to a Throne as a great superstition, which was very advantageous to the ruling owners, but which tended to blind the people to their own best interests. If there was to be a General Election, he hoped the Liberals would go further than merely working for the abolition of the veto power of the House of Lords. The one object which the Independent Labour party had was to bring Socialism into power the moment the country wanted it.

Mr. Keir Hardie is constantly inviting the British people to abandon all old-fashioned illusions derived from the light of experience, and to rest their salvation on a solid basis. This basis is only to be obtained by reposing implicit faith in Mr. Keir Hardie, and believing that he has been created for the express purpose of regenerating the world.

Having recently paid a visit to India, this gentleman has already afforded an example of his constructive abilities that his followers are more than ever convinced that in him they have discovered a genius capable of establishing the Utopia of their dreams.

Apparently one of the first practical steps to be taken towards the realisation of these dreams will consist in the formation of a "Citizen Army," to be maintained by the nation, and for the express purpose of "raising insurrections"!

Mr. Keir Hardie's is not a parochial mind. Turning the seachlight of his abnormal intellect on the American and Australian Constitutions, he has not only exposed their frailties, but by incidentally opening the treasure-house of his own mind has exhibited a wisdom and perspicacity which were entirely hidden from the old-fashioned framers of these Constitutions.

In attacking the monarchical system, he has also succeeded in exposing the folly of all nations who have continued to place reliance on it since the commencement of time.

What a wonderful world it would have been if in their early history these misguided nations had possessed an individual of the intellect of a Keir Hardie, and another endowed with the reasoning powers of a Lloyd George!

However this may be, it must not now be forgotten that Mr. Keir Hardie is the leader of one of the parties on which our so-called Liberal Government rely for support. The Irish Home Rulers—the avowed enemies of England—form another and even more commanding section, and we must remember that it is at the bidding of gentry of this description that the Government are proposing to tear the British Constitution to shreds, and to imperil the very existence of the Throne.

## BROTHERHOOD!

Individuals who, under the name of Socialists, are exploring the whole world to join with them in promoting universal brotherhood of man, or who, in other words, are attempting to destroy every instinct by which mankind has hitherto been actuated, have not been remarkably successful in their first practical experiments. It will be remembered that their two avowed supporters in the last Parliament, Mr. Victor Grayson and Mr. Philip Snowden, commenced the campaign by roundly abusing each other. Since then a really practical attempt has been made for the inauguration of that brotherly love and absolute unselfishness pointed to by Mr. Keir Hardie and hinted at by Mr. Lloyd George. It is described in the *Daily Telegraph*, under the heading of "Socialists' Troubles," and is as follows:—

*"The inauguration of the Socialist Eden, even by its greatest adepts, does not proceed without trouble. A community had been formed in Paris, consisting of some twenty or thirty members, who occupied a building in common and issued a periodical publication, which was one of their principal means of livelihood. It was not long before two hostile parties were formed, one half being leagued against the other. The upshot of it was that one of their members was to be forcibly expelled, and, of course, his friends took sides with him. Having been driven out of his room, and being for some days without a roof over him, he gathered some friends outside and returned to the house to fetch what furniture he had, which his former comrades were keeping from him on the pretext that he had misappropriated £100 worth of printing material."*

*"A pitched battle ensued between the occupants and the intruders. Revolvers were brought into play, dozens of shots were fired, and two of their number were soon lying on the ground with several bullets in their bodies. The police intervened, and helped in the ambulance service, taking the wounded men to hospital, and four of the unwounded into safety behind prison walls. Both sides now launch bitter accusations against each other, but the happiness and prosperity of the community seem to be hopelessly destroyed. Perhaps it is thanks to the police and the authorities that any of them are still alive."*

Judging from the above facts the Independent Labour Party will have to wait some little time for the attainment of their "one object."

## MR. BLATCHFORD ON EDUCATION

In *The Clarion* of May 13th, Mr. Blatchford has an admirable article on the emancipation of the child, from which we take the following extract:—

"Some two years ago I had a dispute with a local School Board, who tried to make me send my child to one of their cramming factories. I could not make these ignorant education-mongers understand that I kept my children from school for their own benefit. They had got the idea wedged into their stodgy brains that I was 'neglecting' the bairns. Finally, I took the youngsters away out of their jurisdiction. . . .

"Now for some heresy. I would teach children (or rather enable them to learn) to read and write. Nothing else is necessary. The next step in education should be practical. The child should learn to make or do things. As for book learning, let each individual seek that which its own nature needs. Give the child a good home, and a good example, and all the liberty it desires. If a boy or girl likes to draw, buy some paper and paints, and fortify them with a little encouragement. Let those learn Latin who need Latin. But I beg to say again that fresh air, and love and sympathy are more needful to children than any kind of scholarship."

We commend Mr. Blatchford's words to all child-lovers, and to all those who believe in *real education* as opposed to our present idiotic system.



## The New Philosophy

The right of man to exercise complete freedom in connection with exchange and barter, and in buying and selling, has been recognised from the first moment he emerged from the savage to the civilised state.

The world in all times has never disputed the right of free men to enter into bargains with each other in the manner which appears most conducive to their respective interests, and the recognition of this fact has formed the basis upon which commerce, from time immemorial, has been conducted.

For more than a quarter of a century; however, British Governments have been attempting to interfere with this elementary right, and, by ignoring first principles, our so-called statesmen are rapidly degenerating into mere pedagogues, and, moreover, pedagogues of a distinctly narrow type.

Our political schoolmasters have apparently decided that from henceforth Englishmen should no longer be considered capable of making their own bargains, but the terms of such contracts should be more or less determined by Parliament, the reason being that certain bargains uncontrolled by legislature may prove onerous or unfortunate to one side or the other.

Our Governments are apparently under the impression that legislatively controlled bargains will result in such bargains proving equally advantageous to both contracting parties.

This interference with the right of freedom of contract has, as may naturally be supposed, led to most disastrous results, not only in regard to individuals, but to the prosperity of the nation at large.

To prevent the individual from disposing of property, from entering into contracts of a legitimate nature, and from disposing of his labour in any manner he may think fit, is antagonistic to the fundamental laws upon which all civilised nations have hitherto based their faith.

Broadly speaking, our recent Governments have limited their interference to disputes which arise between large bodies of workmen and their employers. It is on these occasions they send down Government officials to "conciliate" the parties, but it is difficult to imagine how any form of "conciliation" will enable an employer to carry on his business at a loss. The basis of the new philosophy apparently consists in sending a man who knows nothing of the exigencies, engagements and undertakings of a business, to arbitrarily interfere with its varied and complicated mechanism.

How can any official know that an employer will be able to keep his doors open, say, for another six months after the unfortunate man has been induced, by Governmental pressure, to agree to terms which he may be entirely unable to carry into effect through want of money?

If these methods are to be extended, the only logical course open to the Government is to establish State Banks, in order that employers who have agreed to carry on operations under the advice of the Board of Trade, shall be supplied with sufficient funds for the purpose.

When the immediate danger of a strike has been averted in the manner we have described, and everything supposed to have been happily settled, then, unfortunately, comes the aftermath. Employers not being in possession of sufficient capital to carry on business at a loss, are necessarily compelled to close their works.

The recent trouble in the Welsh coal trade supplies a forcible example. A short time since, owing to the passing of the iniquitous Eight Hours Act, serious trouble arose

in the mining districts of South Wales, but the Government settled it in the usual manner by sending their harbinger of peace in the shape of a Board of Trade official, and, in the course of a few hours, according to the newspaper reports, peace reigned supreme, and the fact thus made obvious that the supposed invincible "law of supply and demand" vanished into thin air when opposed by an omnipotent and beneficent Government.

It is usually, however, good policy to refrain from shouting until one is out of the wood, and the present is a case in point. Within a few weeks of the alleged settlement, we learn that the Garth and Oakfield collieries are to be closed down, and in West Glamorganshire notices have been served on fifteen thousand colliers to cease work.

Coal exports from the Bristol Channel in April show a decrease of one hundred thousand tons as compared with the corresponding month of last year, and Governmental interference seems likely to be followed by very general destitution and starvation. The obvious moral to be drawn is that an article, whether consisting of labour or anything else, is worth in the market what it will fetch, and no more.

By affecting great interest in the amicable settlement of these disputes, the fact is not lost sight of that the workpeople usually represent a large number of votes, and the employers only a small number. There is always, therefore, a possibility that the majority votes may eventually be secured in support of the Government in power, in return for their disinterested action. We say it advisedly, that politicians can labour under no more fatal mistake than to imagine that they can interfere with the intricate working of the commercial machinery of a nation, to the advantage of that nation.

By attempting to bring their doctrinaire notions to bear on matters which are beyond their province, and of whose endless ramifications they have no more knowledge than "a pig of peeling potatoes," they are providing the answer to Mr. Lloyd George's question:

"How is it that this country, so full of natural riches and so well placed in natural seaports for competing with any other country in the world, should be unable to employ its own population?"

## PROSPEROUS AMERICA

The increased wage movement brought about throughout the United States by the amazing prosperity which the country is enjoying owing to its protective tariffs continues to sweep that country. The United States Steel Corporation is the latest recruit to join in the movement. It is announced that it has been decided to raise the wages of all the workmen employed by the corporation by 6 per cent. This will affect 225,000 employees, and will mean a total increase in the wages of about £1,500,000 a year.

The April number of the *American Federationist*, the organ of the American Federation of Labour, contains reports from correspondents all over the country giving details of the increases which have taken place in the wages of all classes of workmen. The following are a few representative items from the reports:—

Hot Springs (Arkansas): Hod-carriers and building labourers, 1s. a day.

Denver: Stereotypers, 1s. a day.

Bristol (Connecticut): Carpenters, 1s. 2d. a day.

Chicago: Ironmoulders, 1s. a day.

Chicago: Billposters, 12s. a week.

Indianapolis: Newspaper printers, 8s. a week.

Dubuque (Iowa): Teamsters, 2½d. an hour.

Kansas City: Typesetters, 12s. a week.

Asbury Park (New Jersey): Painters, 1s. a day.

Cincinnati: Brewery workers, 8s. a week.

Waco (Texas): Printers, 8s. a week.

Barre (Vermont): Granite workers, 1½d. an hour.

The New York *Evening Mail* estimates that before the increased wage movement ends American working men will have received an aggregate increase in their wages over the level of 1909 of £100,000,000 a year.



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## THE COMMENTATOR

MAY 27, 1910

By the death of King Edward, which occurred with such tragic suddenness, the nation has sustained a grievous and terrible loss. Throughout the whole Empire—throughout the whole world—a great personal sorrow was felt at the passing of one whose life had enriched the world, and whose genius had added so much to the strength and glory of the nation. As a King who symbolised everything kingly and noble, and as a man of rare humanity, his late Majesty will be ever enshrined in the hearts of his people.

The moral influence of Queen Victoria had raised the crown to a high pinnacle. The force of her personality was stamped indelibly upon the age, whilst the record of her great achievements had made the Victoria era a memorable and historic epoch in the annals of the nation.

It was the onerous lot of King Edward to maintain the power of the Throne at the same high level, and he fulfilled his destiny in a way which earned him the eternal love and gratitude of his people.

The candid opinion of other nations in regard to the crisis through which this country is now passing would make interesting reading. The real view of Germany would, we fancy, be the most piquant; the situation is one to excite wonder and contempt in the minds of all observers.

As for our dominions oversea, to them the spectacle of Mr. Asquith and Mr. Redmond combining to destroy the ancient foundations of the Empire must be anything but inspiring. Mighty England has become a thing to jeer at. Our lawyer statesmen have brought the science of Government to the level of huckstering, and our heritage of world-wide power has become the sport of demagogues.

The old Liberal party had at least some reverence for the country's greatness, some pride in her free institutions, but the new Radicalism, which is Socialism in all but name, is imbued with no such spirit; it is completely subservient to the mob.

Strange irony of Fate, whereby the descendants of the men who secured the Magna Charta for the nation are to be robbed of their ancient right to stand between the people and their oppressors! Stranger still that, in these days, the assailant is no tyrannical monarch, but a Radical Prime Minister who commits the act in the name of liberty and of the people!

It would be difficult to imagine anything more grotesque!

The Veto Bill, whereby the Radical-Socialist-Irish combine hope to carry out their conspiracy against the Constitution, reveals at least one interesting feature. Mr. Asquith, it may be remembered, informed the House of Commons that the Government intended to make a declaration of their plans for a reformed Second Chamber in the preamble of a coming Bill.

This was, of course, a sop to Mr. Haldane and Sir Edward Grey, who were forced to swallow their principles so that Mr. Redmond and the Socialist wing might be appeased, and the Budget foisted on to the nation.

We now see how Mr. Asquith has carried out his promise. The Bill states: "Whereas it is intended to substitute for the House of Lords as it at present exists a Second Chamber constituted on a popular instead of a hereditary basis, but such substitution cannot be immediately brought into operation."

No one will be taken in by this vague and hypocritical declaration; it will deceive no one as to the Government's real intentions. The Radical party and their allies, with a few unimportant exceptions, are completely opposed to any form of Second Chamber. The destruction of the House of Lords is their sole aim:

Under the new *régime* the Speaker will decide whether any amendment proposed to a Money Bill is such as to prevent the Bill "retaining the character of a Money Bill." He will supply the solution to the riddle: "When is a Money Bill not a Money Bill?" His verdict is to be conclusive, and is not to be questioned in any court of law. In other words, the office of Speaker is to be transformed from that of a chairman of debate into that of an interpreter of tacking, from whose judgment there can be no appeal.

Again, we read that "provision will herewith require to be made in a measure effecting such substitution for limiting and defining the powers of the new Second Chamber." If this means anything, it means taking away the last shreds of power from the existing Upper House and giving the nation over to absolute despotism. There is not a single individual in the country of any political persuasion whatsoever who can truthfully say that he is adequately represented in the House of Commons.

There is no denying the fact that a very large proportion of Radicals have often been devoutly thankful for the existence of a Second Chamber, which has allowed them to exercise *their* veto on some unauthorised piece of legislation, for which the Government had invented a mandate.

If the Radical hopes are realised, that opportunity will have ceased to exist. Radical effort is entirely concentrated upon the establishment of the autocratic powers of the House of Commons.

The veriest criminal has the right of appeal against the sentence of his judges, but the British nation is asked to abolish its Court of Appeal against the tyranny of the House of Commons, and to accept its verdict as final and absolute.

It is a strange perversion of the democratic spirit that this thing is done in the name of democracy! The veto of the House of Lords means the veto of the people, and if they relinquish this precious privilege, if they meekly bow their necks to the Radical yoke, they are deliberately re-entering the state of serfdom from which they were released when the Barons pledged themselves to stand between the people and uncontrolled tyranny.

Speaking at the City Carlton Club last month, Major Coates, M.P., gave his hearers some highly interesting particulars as to the methods of the Conservative party organisers:—"When his own election was complete, he went north, south, east and west to help other Unionist candidates, and he found that the party needed a definite policy with regard to food-taxes and Colonial Preference. In one place he was told to say one thing about such taxes; in another to declare that no duty would be put on Colonial corn; and in a third that a shilling duty would be placed on that corn. There was no definite policy, and speakers did not know what to say. That confusion must not be allowed to continue. . . ." Since these remarks were made, Mr. Balfour has officially announced that Colonial corn will be admitted free. It is a pity Mr. Balfour was not able to make up his mind on this point before the last election, as questionable tactics of the kind described by Major Coates are only calculated to destroy the confidence of the electors.

Ever since the last election the Conservative party organisation has been the subject of much candid criticism. There can be no doubt that the party machinery requires complete overhauling. The suggestion which has been made for an Intelligence Department is an excellent one, and the infusion of some intelligent supervision into the work of the National Union is eminently desirable. The leaders of the party should be in much closer touch with the organisation, and the work of the various committees and sub-committees should be something more than the mere formality it is at present; some co-ordination of effort among the various societies is absolutely essential. Above all things we want a clear and defined policy without evasion, and stripped of these vague and intangible subtleties so dear to the philosophic soul.



The rapidity with which the official Conservative party are pursuing their old policy of surrender has never been more accentuated than of late. During the past few months that party, or, rather, their leaders, have made marked progress in the descending scale.

Alliance with Radicalism is presumably considered to have been exploited, and the Conservative leaders, who are now searching for "fresh fields and pastures new," have apparently pitched upon Socialism.

It seems, therefore, that a "short truce" is to be asked for by the Conservative leaders, in order that they may have time to bring the Conservative party into line with a Government, whose very existence is maintained by an alliance with Radicals, Republicans, Socialists, Separationists, etc.

Does Mr. Balfour imagine that the divergent views represented by these various sections can be made to harmonise in any conceivable way with the doctrines of Conservatism? We may tell him at once that it would be as reasonable to offer a tiger a bite of his leg and expect the animal to be satisfied.

When we observed that a meeting was suggested between Mr. Balfour and the members of the Government, for the purpose of amicably arranging the question of the House of Lords, and other great issues at stake, we were forcibly reminded of the following lines:—

"There was a young lady of Riga,  
Who went for a ride on a tiger;  
They returned from the ride  
With the lady inside,  
And a smile on the face of the tiger."

The Liberal League, which was formed in 1902, and which owed its existence to Lord Rosebery, is now a thing of the past. The league was supposed to stand for Liberal Imperialism, and amongst others who worked towards its initial start were Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. Haldane. Imperialism in the Radical Cabinet has been at a low ebb for some time, the dominating influence being United Irish League rather than Liberal League. Lord Rosebery resigned office as president of the league last September, the night before his speech on the Budget. His example was followed by many other "Liberal Imperialists," including Sir Robert Perks.

The Home Secretary has in several instances lately (we do not include the Haywards Heath case) summarily reversed the decision of local magistrates, and his action has been greeted with effusion by his Radical admirers. The reason for such course of action on the part of Mr. Winston Churchill and of such gratulation on the part of his supporters is not far to seek. The Radicals are determined, by every means in their power, to flout the administration of gentlemen justices and to supplant them on the Bench by Radical lawgivers. In this department, as in all others, their plea is "to the victors the spoils." The argument—or rather assertion, for argument is too dignified a term in this context—of the Radical agitator is that the country gentleman is an incompetent Justice of the Peace because, forsooth, he is a country gentleman, because he is in general a man of means and property with a stake in the country, a man accustomed to the ways of the countryside and its people, and with a serious sense of the responsibility of his duties. The fact is that county populations have little love for Liberal Solons of mushroom growth.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., and his friends on their Labour tour in Germany have had to exercise considerable ingenuity to sustain the hoary Free Trade contention that the German people live in a state of semi-pauperisation and starvation, that their wages are incredibly low, that horse-flesh and black bread are their constant fare, that tea is a luxury beyond their reach, etc. Mr. Macdonald ascribes the well-dressed appearance of the German people to two things: (1) that the shabbily dressed remain indoors, and (2) that the German working-man is much neater than the English artisan. Mr. Macdonald's first plea is certainly

a very ingenuous one, the inference to be made from it being that no man in Germany will venture out into the street unless he is immaculately clad, and that great masses of the population are concealing their patches behind window-blinds. There is only one thing wrong with Mr. Macdonald's surmise, and that is that it is preposterous. Of course, we have occasional cases in England where distressed people are so proud that they will not apply for parish relief, even in case of acute hunger; but can anyone but a Free Trade humorist of the Macdonald type conceive of large masses of people keeping themselves immured because their clothes are shabby?

One would have thought that the black-bread legend would have been thrown into the dust-heap of discredited controversy long since, along with its horse and dog-flesh allies. The black bread of Germany, of course, is not the loathsome compound dear to Free Trade fictionists, but a savoury, reliable article much in favour with German housewives. This generic term, "black bread," too, is applied to all gradations of cereal foodstuffs, even to the æsthetic "pumpernickel" bread which appears on the tables of Royalty.

The recent Free Trade trippers did manage to avoid the dog-flesh legend, but the statement that great masses of the German populace are driven by poverty and hunger and the terrible demon of Protection generally to consume horse-flesh, albeit with horror and disgust, has again been well to the fore. It may be here definitely stated that the German people are not addicted to the eating of dog-flesh; no civilised nation is; but with regard to horse-flesh, it is different. Horse-flesh is not a natural food to us; but in matters of cuisine, as of morals, a great deal depends on the custom of the country. Ever since the siege of Paris, for instance, when horses were slaughtered for the needs of the famishing and beleaguered city, horse-flesh has been considered a legitimate article of food there. In Russia, in Austria, and elsewhere, it is so regarded. As regards Germany, Mr. Macdonald has given his whole case away, where he has stated: "The trade in horse-flesh is an ordinary part of German commerce. *No one thinks anything about it.*" Just so! If it were garbage imperatively thrust upon a ravenous and destitute people, a great deal would be thought about it.

The eating of appetising black bread and healthy horse-flesh in Germany is about as convincing proof of the evils of Tariff Reform as the eating of daintily prepared frogs and snails by French epicures of the evils of Protection in France. We do not as a nation care for horse-flesh or relish the French delicacies referred to; but, none the less, our trade—our "Free Trade"—is disappearing, and our workers are being thrust into the abyss of helplessness and despair created by vanished and vanishing employments. If Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and his friends would pay less attention to German food and devote more consideration to the means by which the British working man might be fed, or, rather, earn the means to feed himself, their remarks on economics might arouse interest and not ridicule.

It hardly needed so desperate an expedient as the organised invasion of Mr. William O'Brien's Cork stronghold by Mr. Redmond and his chief lieutenants to demonstrate the anxious alarm with which the latter are observing the rapid headway made by their rivals, and the growing evidences of their own diminished hold upon the Nationalist electorate. There seems strong ground for the belief that Mr. O'Brien's estimate of the unpopularity which the Redmondites have incurred in Ireland by their acceptance of the Budget is little if at all exaggerated, and that the next General Election will result in another and a heavy reduction of their Parliamentary strength. Whether or not the O'Brienite policy is a practical one, it is at any rate founded on a basis which renders it free of the support of traitors and dynamitards; and to that extent at least its advocates are entitled to sympathy in their struggle with their Redmondite rivals.



## MAGISTERIAL SOLOMONS!

The Hon. Frank Lascelles, son of the Earl of Harewood, was, at Ivybridge Sessions, fined £1 and costs, for making use of the word "damn."

It appears that this gentleman, whilst cycling, came into collision with a carriage in which the wife of a Dr. Langworthy and members of his family were driving. Mr. Lascelles had his collar-bone broken, his right ear nearly torn off, and his leg badly bruised, and was wicked enough, under the circumstances, to say "Damn!" For this grievous expression the Ivybridge magistrates considered it their duty to fine him.

It would be interesting to ascertain who it was who applied for the summons against Mr. Lascelles. Was it Dr. Langworthy, Mrs. Langworthy, any member of the Langworthy family, or the Langworthy coachman? for these are apparently the only people who could have given evidence as to the distressing fact.

It is reported that Mrs. Langworthy asked Mr. Lascelles if he would like to see her husband, the doctor, who was at home, and Mr. Lascelles replied that he had "had enough of Dr. Langworthy."

There may have been other reasons, but we can quite understand that the unfortunate gentleman, with a broken collar-bone, a torn ear, and a bruised leg, in consequence of a collision with the Langworthy family, was not anxious in any way to enlarge his acquaintance. If Mrs. Langworthy's kind offer of her husband's assistance had been accepted, would proceedings still have been instituted against Mr. Lascelles for using the obnoxious word? Is it possible to imagine that whilst Dr. Langworthy was engaged in healing Mr. Lascelles' body, the doctor, or some member of his household, would have applied for a summons against the patient?

For the defence, it was urged that the word "damn" was not obscene language.

We really do not know whether this contention was right or wrong, in point of law, but we much regret that it is impossible to obtain a cinematograph film depicting the pious horror expressed on the faces of the Ivybridge Dogberrys, when passing sentence. Unfortunately, we are not a pictorial paper, or we should have attempted to procure photographs of these gentlemen in order that our readers might have an opportunity of studying their virtuous and intelligent countenances.

## THE FRUITS OF FREE TRADE

The members of the Radical administration are constantly prating and babbling of the unexampled prosperity which this country enjoys under its philanthropic fiscal system. After reading a glowing Lloyd Georgian peroration, it is difficult to believe that Great Britain can be other than a land overflowing with milk and honey—a veritable Utopia, where such unpleasant realities as starvation and unemployment are non-existent. If there are any lingering doubts as to the potency of Free Trade, it only remains for Mr. Churchill to make a few passes over a hat borrowed from one of his audience, and hey, presto! the thing is done, and he is indeed a heartless sceptic who persists in doubting the wisdom of his Radical rulers.

In the face of such whole-souled optimism, what are we to think of the appalling tragedy revealed in the Local Government Board return for April, wherein it is stated that in one year there were 128 deaths from starvation in England, and this in spite of cheap food? When will this well-fed Radical Government awaken to the facts and realise the ghastly tragedy which their economic theories and Socialistic practices have produced? During April thirty thousand persons left Glasgow and London for Canada. Can Free Trade offer us any compensation for this loss of manhood!

A significant feature of the immigration is that a large percentage of the immigrants are composed of the flower of our working classes, and many of them are carrying British capital with them.

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## Turning the Tables

At the General Election, and since, sweeping charges were made on public platforms and the Press as to the wholesale intimidation of innocent Radical voters by wicked Conservatives, especially of the landed class. It was mainly for the purpose of protecting the poor, oppressed Radical voters that the Gladstone League was brought into existence with a mighty blare of self-righteous trumpets. Some interesting developments followed, amongst these a vigorous search for Radical "martyrs," noble souls who had voted the "party-ticket," and who had lost their livelihoods by so doing; the "heavy villains" of Conservatism having brought about their ruin. As might easily have been foreseen, plenty of Radical martyrs were forthcoming, and the funds of the Liberal League were generously devoted to their service. An awkward spoke, however, was put in the whirling wheel of such philanthropy by the cold facts revealed in the Hartlepool and East Dorset election petitions, which demonstrated beyond cavil that intimidation has been practised on Conservative voters by Radical electioneers. This state of tyranny and malversation has been proven up to the hilt against Radical workers of all sorts and conditions. On the other hand, Conservative victories have been left unchallenged.

Is it likely or conceivable that any Radical candidate, defeated by the methods which all the defeated Radical candidates alleged so pitifully and so volubly in the columns of the cocoa-press, would have refrained from petitioning in due form of law if he had stood the ghost of a chance of maintaining his whimpering assertions and gaining a seat? No rational man will credit, and every reasonable man will know what value to attach to, the outcry of discredited Radical candidates and the truculence of the impotent Gladstone League.

Take again the charge of coercion of Radical voters brought against the clergy of the Established Church. The unsuspecting visitor, from New Zealand or elsewhere, reading the Radical papers from the beginning of the General Election right up to the present time, would, we are inclined to believe, if he had confined his reading to such organs, probably have been under the impression that an Anglican Inquisition prevailed in England, compared with which the affrighting Spanish Inquisition was a mild and powerless body. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York were indicated as possessing greater temporal power than was claimed for the earlier Popes. In addition to the old fetich of intimidation, charges of blasphemy were preferred against the Anglican clerics. Parish magazines were eagerly collected by Nonconformist editors and their staffs, and mingled horror and amusement were expressed at the local vicars' views on the essential questions of the day. It is an article of fixed belief with the Nonconformist Press that clergymen of the great Sacramental Churches should have no rights as citizens and should be debarred from giving any expression of opinion on the duties of citizenship. The irony of this position is that the theory of Radicalism is "equal rights for all." Its practice as regards subjects of the King and followers of the Constitution is far different. Holders of titles are ruled out of the arena of citizenship because they are "aristocrats"; hereditary landowners are ruled out because they are "haughty squires"; the clergy are ruled out because they are "parsons—representatives of the Established Church of England." These are not the reasons which Radicals give for their arrogant prohibitions; but they possess lurking dogmas of this kind. Theirs are not rules which work both ways. Newly ennobled Radicals are regarded by them with some affection, because, for a little while, at any rate, they will assert their Radical sentiments; Radical "merchant princes," who are as arbitrary in their methods as the most melodramatic of "squires," are hailed with acclamation, because they are "great employers of labour" (and

because, incidentally, they contribute to the party war-chest with a view to the Upper House); Nonconformist preachers are regarded by them as prophets of great honour, because they are virulent Dissenters and rabid Radicals. Talk of blasphemy, indeed! The language of some of these Radical Nonconformist "Divines" is an insult to Christianity. The propagandist cant of the rulers of the Nonconformist tabernacles is distasteful and disgusting. Out of their own mouths these men are convicted not alone of want of Christian humanity but of Christian reverence. Anyone who doubts the truth of this assertion can find ready proof to hand in the files of the Radical daily papers for the opening month of the present year, when the name of the Deity was invoked time and again by Nonconformist pulpiteers as a Radical partisan in the General Election; or by visiting, on the renewal of the political struggle in this country, any of those many chapels of Dissent where a political speaker and a brass band are the salient expressions of devotion. The political Chadband has always been one of the most objectionable features in the quasi-religious Dissenting life of England.

## A HEARTLESS PROSECUTION

Under the heading of "A Heartless Prosecution" the following report appeared in *John Bull* for April 23rd:—

"At the end of December, and the greater part of January, I was laid up with an attack of pleurisy. To provide necessities for me, my husband was compelled to let the rent run. This the landlord said he did not mind in cases of illness.

"Imagine my surprise when, the first day I left my bed, as I was giving my three children their dinner, there was a knock at the door. I answered, and was confronted with the landlord, and before I could ask him his business, a bullying bailiff pushed his way inside. They told me to go and fetch my husband from his work, and not being up to this sort of thing, I went. This was my first outing after being ill. Everything was cleared away in three hours, in spite of my husband offering to borrow, for the paltry sum of £2 5s. And this is how I was left in two empty rooms, with three little children, and not even a chair.

"On the following Monday, the education officer called. He was informed what had happened, and my two little girls had neither boots nor coats to go to school in. And the only coat my little boy had was literally a bag of rags.

"I was fined 7s. 6d. for their non-attendance, or, in default, nine days' imprisonment. Now that would have bought them a cheap pair of boots at least."

Here is a poor woman in most distressful circumstances, who has just risen from a bed of sickness. Her husband finds it difficult to get work enough to provide the barest necessities. The rent falls in arrear, and what seems to have been a particularly harsh levy by the landlord is the result. Just at the moment when things are at their blackest, when the few sticks of furniture have been seized for rent, and the poor wife, weakened by illness, is in the greatest distress, and the children without boots, an education officer takes the poor woman before a magistrate, who inflicts a fine of 7s. 6d.—a fine, as the woman truly says, sufficient to have bought a pair of boots." Really it is incomprehensible.

We rejoice to think that these cases of educational brutality are being thus exposed.

## PIT PONIES' TERRIBLE PLIGHT

We take the following extract from the *Daily Express*:—

"There were remarkable scenes at Cramlington (Northumberland) on Saturday, when, in consequence of the miners' strike, the ponies were brought up from six collieries.

"The condition of many of the animals was pitiful. Some could scarcely walk, through the long period of inactivity, while many—unaccustomed to the sunlight—were unable to see.

"Some had to be shot, and the pit lads, recognising the animals, were deeply affected."

It seems as if even the dumb creatures are not exempt from the general blight produced by the action of the Radical Government, but are compelled to bear their share.

The Eight Hours Bill has produced nothing but universal trouble, starvation, and wretchedness throughout the whole of the mining districts, since it came into operation.

It has failed to benefit a single section, or, we believe, a single individual, in the whole length and breadth of the kingdom.



## Letters of Joseph Mitchell

### No. 1

THE LETTERS OF ONE, JOSEPH MITCHELL, EMPLOYED IN A STATIONER'S SHOP AT STREATHAM, LONDON, TO HIS FATHER, A SHOEMAKER IN THE VILLAGE OF BOLINGEY, CORNWALL

Streatham High Road, S.W., April 19th, 1910.

MY DEAR FATHER,—At last I can write home, and from the date you will see that I have strictly observed your advice, "Don't you write home, lad, for a month, for home-sickness that puts pen to paper breeds melancholy, and that melancholy comes home to roost and spoils a beginning." You were right; if I had written I should have followed my letter, for it would have contained my heart. I have got used to things. Tell mother that I have found lodgings—recommended by my master—with a Mrs. Hardy, at 999, Wells Street. The husband is employed on the *Trumpet Call*, a Socialist paper—I can hear you snort. Yes, he's a Socialist, but as yet I have seen little of him.

You will want to hear about London, but first—to please mother and sister Polly—I am going to begin with myself. Well, I am enjoying the work. Plenty to do. Mr. Mendick's shop is in the High Road, and I have charge of the newspaper department. The work is much the same as that at Tregowan's shop in Truro, but we deal in hundreds to Tregowan's tens; during the five years I was at Truro I told you enough about the newspaper business to enable you to understand that this is Tregowan's multiplied by ten. We have papers and periodicals about everything, for everybody, and all of these publications in demand. Apparently everyone in London has time to read, and also the inclination. I am allowed to take home—you will see how easily even a bed influences one—such publications as please the passing fancy; as well, there are odd moments to be snatched honestly during the day, and these I do not neglect. Also there are many books—on Socialism—at 999; I shall dip into them some day. By the way, Mr. Mendick belongs to the county of *One and All*—he was born at St. Austell—and he approved of mother's hogs-puddings and pasties.

Every Sunday I go to the parish church, the same where Dr. Johnson worshipped with the Thrales, and in the evening I think of you all away home. Oh, when I picture home, well, the tears will come—they do me good—for we were all so happy on such evenings, especially in the spring and summer—mother, you, Polly and I. Sometimes I wish that we didn't grow up, but we were always together in the little orchard, more particularly when the blossom roofs us overhead and the bees hum drowsily at the call of rest. You know the time, father, when little Polly sits on your knee, and I hold mother's hand; then you preach us cobbler's sermons on God, nature, and ourselves; the sun goes down timidly and the wind rustles on its way from the Porth, and mother goes to get supper while you tell us pixie stories; after supper comes the reading from the Old Book—generally the Sermon on the Mount, because you call it the treasure of heaven—and then bed. O father, why must we grow up? But I am thankful here in London for those evenings—the memory keeps me straight.

Cobbler's sermons—yes, I read the one you wrote down for me before I came up; hardly a sermon—I call it the Cobbler's Compass:—

"Fear God and think straight.

"Perspiration means success.

"Worry your work, don't work a worry.

"Sleep is a holiday, don't waste the night.

"To serve well, forget the clock.

"If you don't do more than you're paid for, you'll never do more for yourself.

"If you don't do what is impossible, you won't do much.

"Earth isn't heaven, but you can make it a good place to live in.

"You can grow roses in a kitchen garden.

"Don't stop to grumble, or the other fellow will get there first."

And many more; but these I like best. How on earth did you learn all this? Yet I know quite well—thought-digging in the Squire's library. You've told me many times. Whenever you took a pair of boots to Chidderton House, Squire Peters would have you in willy-nilly, for he knew you were a rare one for books—and I take after you—and he'd have you in the library; and what with the books and the good Old Tory chats about the men who kept the flag flying with honour and prosperity in the good Old Tory days, when they were not afraid to say, "Country first and Party be damned," and there was no talk of paying men to serve the State, and so making a member of Parliament a servile liar in order to keep his post at any cost to his honour; well, then it was a case between you, as the Cornish saying goes, "you and me's one." You'd come home with a book, maybe two, and you were not ashamed to say, "God bless the Squire!" Ay, father, would there were more, many more, of those hard-riding, generous, true-as-steel gentlemen. Yes, you and I owe a deal to him for the run of his books, which we devoured with the appetites of starving minds, and we mustn't forget the warm, proud hand-shake, the kindly smile. The first to give, the last to take away. Ever, with his lady, in his place in the village church; indeed, as you stoutly maintain, he possesses a heart of oak—good, British oak that has never known defeat. Amidst all the changes that are for pulling down the grand old Constitution and traditions, of deeds not words, there are still some of these men bred of the right stock, and thewed with the true principles that have made England great; and for such, let us be thankful.

You will see, father, that London hasn't torn out the honest liking for squire and tradition—no, you needn't shake your head and mutter that only a month has passed, for you and he have grafted the spirit too firmly on me.

The journey up was uneventful as far as Exeter—by the way, Cornish granite is grander to look upon than the red cliffs of Devon. Our little Porth of Perran, with its miles of harsh sand and dunes, its wealth of pinnacle and arch carved by the restless tumult of the Atlantic from the rim of rock, makes one glory in being a son of the county of the Black Prince. At Exeter a fisherman, going to Bristol, entered our carriage. He dragged us all into a heated discussion on Tariff Reform, and gave us ample qualification for his ardent advocacy—it appears that when stress of weather compels them to land fish at a French port, there is a thirty per cent. duty to pay, whereas French fishermen, forced to put in here, can dispose of their catch duty free. There were seven of us in the carriage, and before reaching Bristol, we divided on the subject—five for, and two against—with a roar of delight the fisherman shook each of us by the hand. From Bristol I had a new set of fellow passengers, who were not inclined for conversation.

My impressions of London. Of course, every newcomer is appalled by the bustle, confusion, and noise of this brick hive, but one soon gets used to the whirligig; yet every day, nay, each minute, has its tale of wonder, pain, sorrow, laughter, tragedy and tears. It moves, it hums, it works, this hub of Empire, but its people is the most apathetic people in the world.

Now, the one thing that strikes me most about London, as a whole, is its *astounding apathy*, with one exception—but time won't allow until next week.

Love to mother and our Polly.—Your loving son,

JOE MITCHELL.



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## The Cant of Representation

Throughout all the froth and fury of Radical invective and flabby rhetoric—the mock heroics of Mr. Churchill, the sonorous platitudes of Mr. Asquith, and the Celtic effervescence of Mr. Lloyd George—one finds it reiterated that the will of the people, as expressed through their accredited representatives, shall prevail. It is the cant phrase of the age, the sacred shibboleth before which all must bow the knee. The will of the people without limitation and without any conformity to Constitutional requirements—this is put forward as the foundation of their jerry-built edifice, the mainspring of their revolutionary attempt to demolish the House of Lords and set up a Radical oligarchy. And yet, when the House of Lords sought to give the people an opportunity of voicing their opinion on the question of the Budget, these self-appointed keepers of the democratic will raised their hands in holy horror. According to their one-sided philosophy, the will of the people, as represented by the House of Commons, only applies when that House represents the will of the Radical party, or, as Mr. Bonar Law put it during the debate on the Resolutions: "If the House elected by the same voters did not take the Radical view, then it did not represent the will of the people, but only the peer-ridden villages and cathedral cities." Underlying all this specious Radical reasoning there is the tremendous fallacy that the Government of the day accurately and specifically represent the people.

The matter was capably handled by Mr. Balfour in the debate on the Campbell-Bannerman resolutions. He then pointed out that it is only in a technical sense that the House of Commons represent the people, and only in a technical sense that the Government represent the House; "and when you get technical representation," Mr. Balfour said, "at two removes you do not get a very firm ground for such action as the Government contemplate." This cant of representation by an autocratic House of Commons will not bear examination for a moment. Does anyone outside of a lunatic asylum suppose that the great mass of the electors who vote during an election know what they are voting for? We have it on the authority of Mr. Bottomley that many of his constituents believed the Veto to be a vegetable; and we can well understand this confusion of ideas as the outcome of Radical oratory.

During an election a number of highly complicated questions come before the electors, each side makes the most of its particular point of view, popular passions are inflamed, and men take one side or another according to their prejudices. A large percentage of the candidates themselves are hopelessly at sea, and rely upon the services of the professional politicians to pull them safely through. The complete details of the legislative programme is, for obvious reasons, not before the electors, and the result is supposed to confer upon the side which is successful inherent rights to uncontrolled management of the national destinies. That is the Radical standpoint.

The thing is farcical. When we come down to practicality, it is to the non-elected Chamber we look for true representation. It was Charles Kingsley who said, "I look to them (the House of Lords) as the representatives of every man who has saved enough to buy a silver fork, a Yankee clock, or anything, in fact, which he wishes to hand to his children."

Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues may be regarded as the representatives of the other class—the wasters, the won't-works, and the rest—who are ever ready to acclaim any scheme of spoliation and to damn everybody and everything which acts as a barrier to their schemes for undermining the Constitution.



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## Trade Union Levies

In the *Labour Leader* for April 27th an interesting letter from a correspondent appears on the subject of Parliamentary Levies. The writer, Mr. T. James Fisher, is a member of the I.L.P., and therefore obviously a Socialist, but even this fact does not blind him to the tyranny of compelling members of Trade Unions to support professional agitators under penalty of forfeiting all the benefits to which they are entitled. The following is an extract:—

"... This seems to me to be an unwarrantable infringement of the right of the individual to choose his political representative freely, and a trespass on liberty of conscience, and freedom of thought, perilously akin to tyranny. We burn with indignation, and rightly, when an employer dismisses an employee because his political opinions differ from those held by his master, but when a Trade Union says to a workman, 'If you choose to exercise your right as a citizen, to think for yourself on political matters, and if the result of your reflection is that you cannot see eye to eye with us, then you shall not enjoy that assistance—those benefits—the provision of which is our essential function.' *If this is not tyranny, what in the name of reason is it?* The nature of the principles, the endorsement of which is demanded, matters not one jot; it is this forced acceptance of them which constitutes the vital question, and I would urge your readers to weigh the matter thoroughly before deciding to support an agitation which has for its implicit object the crushing of those rights of liberty of conscience and freedom of thought which are in theory the birthright of every British subject, and which, if the Labour Party succeeds in its agitation, will remain the pious fictions which they are at present. . . ."

The italics are ours, and we are glad to see that a member of the Socialist body has the courage to speak out in protest against this abominable despotism. But Mr. Fisher need not expect any sympathy from the apostles of liberty and equality. The *Labour Leader* comments on the letter, and the comment is eminently characteristic of the Socialist frame of mind. It is as follows:—

"Trade Union levies for Parliamentary purposes are so thoroughly reasonable and justifiable, so absolutely consistent and harmonious with both Trade Unionist and Socialist principles, that when a Socialist comes forward in opposition it is evident he still retains his individualist attitude and his individualistic mode of thought. The letter objecting to Parliamentary levies which appears in our Letter Page this week reveals the extent to which our correspondent remains imbued with the old individualism, and shows how utterly he fails to understand the new Labourism."

With the latter part of these remarks we are quite in accord. The writer of the letter certainly "fails to understand the new Labourism," otherwise he would wash his hands of the I.L.P. and all their works. To accept Socialism is to renounce all individuality and the right to think and act as an individual. We can but re-echo the words of this disillusioned Socialist: "If this is not tyranny, what in the name of reason is it?"

## GERMANY'S IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

The value of iron and steel manufactures exported to and imported from Germany in the year 1909 is given in the list of questions asked in the House of Commons. It makes significant reading.

"The President of the Board of Trade gave the following answer:—that the import of iron and steel manufactures into the United Kingdom in 1909 consigned from Germany was of the value of £3,516,537, whereas the export of iron and steel manufactures from the United Kingdom in 1909 which were consigned to Germany amounted to £1,389,367."

It will be seen that Germany imported into the United Kingdom £2,127,170 worth more steel and iron manufactured articles than Great Britain exported to her. It would be interesting to know how we paid for this adverse balance of imported goods, and even more interesting to learn how Free Traders reconcile these figures with the assertion that Great Britain in steel production still holds pride of place.

## An Eminent Sportsman's Opinion OF

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—Mr. R. Ll. Purcell Llewellyn writes—

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R. LL. PURCELL LLEWELLYN,

15th Nov., 1909.

Lyth Hill, near Shrewsbury.





## Sidelights on Socialism

The whole creed of the Socialists is based on a conception of human nature which the Socialists themselves directly confute.

One would imagine tolerance and kindly feeling to be the watchwords of this fraternity, but these desirable virtues are chiefly conspicuous by their absence. There is perhaps more intolerance, more heartless snobbery within the Socialist ranks than there is without. A striking illustration is afforded by the Fabian Society, that select circle of snobs who, while pleading the cause of the working-classes, are far too superior, both socially and intellectually, even to associate with the more humble believers in the creed of "Love thy neighbour as thyself," much less to fraternise with them. Moreover, even this magic circle contains its inner circle, comprising a few sacred names which must be whispered with bated breath. And these are the people who would away with class distinction!

Whilst we must look to this society for the select and superior few, the Socialist party in Great Britain is represented mainly by the Independent Labour Party and the Social Democratic Federation. Mr. Keir Hardie is the founder and leading light of the former organisation, while Mr. Hyndman stands at the head of the S.D.F. Both these bodies live up to their common doctrine of fraternal love by indulging in constant bickering and a continual display of petty jealousy.

The S.D.F. accuses the I.L.P. of obscuring their Socialism and sacrificing the true interests of "the cause" to political considerations. To this scathing criticism the I.L.P. retort that the S.D.F. are merely ploughing the sands and beating the air. There is little love lost between the members of these rival bodies. Blatchford, the *Clarion* man, is now regarded by a great many of his loyal, brotherly supporters as a pariah and an outcast, by reason of his attitude on the question of our naval unpreparedness.

This petty spite and sectional jealousy runs through the entire movement. There is not a branch of the Socialist party in the kingdom where it is not in evidence.

Each branch leader is a local Cæsar, with innumerable rivals, and this despot is liable to be dethroned at any moment by an ambitious "Comrade" thirsting for power.

The local branches are centres of gossip, backbiting, and slander. The agnostic Socialist ridicules and insults his Christian comrade, and each school of thought is in constant conflict with the other.

Men who have been attracted to the Socialist movement through earnest but mistaken convictions as to its ideals have left it, thoroughly disgusted and repelled by the petty intrigues, the blatancy, and intolerable egoism of the men and women who preach liberty, equality, and fraternity.

This individual egoism, which too often is egoism of the worst kind, is abundantly manifested in the movement as a whole, which finds room for every species of it—free love, atheism, and the rest. The many-sidedness of the Socialist philosophy acts as a trap for the unwary.

Enthusiastic young people, imbued with high ideals for the regeneration of the race, fall very easy victims, and these misguided, inexperienced young disciples, carried away by the eloquence of people whose private lives sometimes offer only too sordid a contrast to the noble lines of conduct they lay down for their followers, throw themselves into the movement with fanatical zeal.

The more level-headed escape from the toils before much harm has been done, but those impressionable, impulsive young natures, who are quick to feel and quick to act, do not come through the fires unscathed. So loyal themselves that they would scorn to suspect their idols of disloyalty or hypocrisy, they become inoculated with the virus of atheism, free love, and all the other pernicious doctrines which are part and parcel of modern Socialism.

To the crank, Socialism offers an opportunity for the exploitation of his particular mania, and it is not too much to say that almost every species of abnormality may be found in the Socialist fold.

## Spoon-fed Legislation

The stock arguments of the Free Trade School are based almost entirely upon the alleged prosperity of Great Britain. When we are not deluged with statistics and inflated trade returns, we are overwhelmed with bad economics, to prove the contention that under Free Trade the country is phenomenally prosperous compared with the benighted condition of the United States, Germany, and other Protectionist countries.

There is something delightfully unsophisticated in the argument that we alone of all the first-rate nations are the only people who have found fiscal salvation. But perhaps the most instructive commentary on Free Trade is shown in the trend of our social legislation.

Each political party attempts to outvie the other in proposing measures for bringing up the nation with a spoon. There was a time when we could talk bravely of our national virtues, of our independence, and the ability of our citizens to hew out a path in life for themselves without the officious interference of a paternal Government with quasi-philanthropic schemes for the regeneration of the race.

But we may boast no longer. Thanks to the folly of both parties, our people are encouraged to abandon courage, independence or self-reliance, and to rely for their future maintenance as much as possible on the State, or, in other words, our Governments are doing their utmost to produce a nation of State-aided paupers. The new Conservatism, like the new Radicalism, would have the State act as father, mother, keeper and employer.

From the moment the child reaches the age of reason he ceases to become the property of his parents. The State steps in to teach the son or daughter of working-class people classics and the 'ologies, and insists in cultivating an æsthetic sense in our future navvies, bricklayers and general labourers by training them in the use of water-colours and oils.

The child is then turned loose to demonstrate the utility of an eclectic training by becoming an errand boy, or, if his parents are ambitious, a clerk. In a few years, when too old to be taught a useful trade, he joins the army of loafers and swells the ranks of the unemployed, and the State again comes forward to his aid by providing the machinery of the casual ward and the stone yard. He is fed on State pap, and if unfortunate enough to reach old age, presented with a State pension.

Under this vile system of State interference the unfit propagate and flourish, for they can always rely on the State to provide for their necessities during the whole period of their existence.

In this manner the State constitutes itself a huge manufactory for the propagation of the unfit.

This legislative "daddyism" is at the root of all our troubles. Our statesmen have neither courage nor convictions. The Radical party declare that the supreme issue is whether Lords or Commons shall prevail, and shut their eyes to the ruinous effect which has been caused by their onslaughts on capital and their pauperisation of labour.

Legislation has been caricatured and burlesqued into the form of a glorified bribe to the masses in return for votes or expected votes. It is a singular fact that no other country apparently occupies the same position, and we can only conclude that this is part of our Free Trade heritage.



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Editorial Offices: 8, Clifford's Inn, London.



## Notes

## "The Citizen Army"

At a recent meeting of Socialists, presided over by Mr. Hyndman, the conference approved the principle of a standing army, but insisted that it should be free from military law, and as no other law was suggested as a substitute, we can only imagine that when we are provided with Socialism and its Army, the latter force is to be allowed the privilege of exercising its military skill on any section of the community with which it may be pleased to differ.

This view of the question was certainly supported by one of the delegates, who boldly declared that he wanted a "Citizen Army," for "insurrection, and insurrection only," whilst another stated that he insisted that every man should be taught to shoot, but should not be obliged "to take his shooting orders from the Executive Government."

It seems, therefore, that the Socialists are prepared to support an army for the purpose of raising insurrections, but not for their suppression, and whilst this force must necessarily be supplied with rifles at the expense of the nation, it is clear that the bullets which the nation must also provide may find their way into the bodies of any section of the community with which the Army may disagree.

Our Socialist Chancellor of the Exchequer has accomplished an economic revolution, and it is evident that his followers intend to support that revolution with the rifles of the Citizen Army.

## Macnamara on Dukes

That bright particular star of the Radical Government, Dr. Macnamara, has been recently entertaining his Camberwell constituents to a dissertation on Dukes. "Dukes," said Dr. Macnamara, in a scintillating burst of wit, "at three a penny would not hurt anybody; but at a million of money he was bound to say he thought them a very expensive luxury." This Gilbertian sally was, of course, received with applause from the faithful of Camberwell. Needless to say, Dr. Macnamara did not explain to his admirers that the Government deliberately, and with malice aforethought, put the taxpayers to loss in order to pile up their "faked" case against the House of Lords. The income-tax was left uncollected, and the country left to pay its way by borrowing at interest money which was lying in the banks at the Government's disposal. This course was adopted in order to allow the Government a chance of coming to terms with Mr. Redmond and save defeat at the hands of the Irish.

Neither did Dr. Macnamara add that before the country gets rid of the Radical incubus the cost will be considerably more than a million, and by no stretch of the imagination can we regard Dr. Macnamara and his associates as luxuries.

## Lord Halsbury on Education

Lord Halsbury, when recently speaking at the Authors' Club, Whitehall, stated:

"I owe to my father all the education I ever received. Speaking quite confidentially, I never was at school at all; but all the education I received was from my father."

Lord Halsbury is probably at the moment the greatest man in this country, and the mind is staggered by the contemplation of the colossal genius we should have possessed had Lord Halsbury, instead of receiving parental education, been handed over at the age of five to the tender mercies of the Board school until he arrived at the age of fourteen.

## Radical "Retrenchment"

If the future business of the country is to progress on the lines indicated by the Government, we may soon find that the wealth earned by one half of the population will be required for the support of the other.

The cost of establishing the enormous army of inspectors, valuers and officials of every sort and kind which will be required for dragging the population according to Radical

ideas, must necessarily be entirely unproductive and unremunerative, and the cost will have to be wholly defrayed by the taxpayers.

## Insurance Against Robbery

Mr. Lloyd George seems to imagine that a gigantic system of national insurance would afford an adequate means of protection to individuals. There is, however, no possibility of creating national wealth by compelling Smith to insure Robinson or Brown to insure Jones, but on the other hand the direct loss to the country will be enormous.

One is at a loss to understand how one pennyworth of national wealth can be thus created. The suggestion points to another dead loss to the community at large, and which must necessarily be reflected in our eternally increasing taxation.

## The £ s. d. of Home Rule

In a letter to Mr. John Redmond, enclosing a subscription to the Irish party funds, the Bishop of Derry and Killala expresses the opinion that "it should not be necessary on every occasion to throw upon the Irish party the burden of appealing to the generosity of our American and Australian friends." Just so, but does not all this go to prove that the so-called national demand for Home Rule is a political invention? The truth is that the Irish people are tired of their professional patriots, and that the demand for Home Rule does not exist outside of the foreign-fed members of the British Legislature.

## Maudlin Journalism

By the establishment of the Gladstone League, the *Daily News* may be said to have reached the last stage of senility. The awful tales of Conservative intimidation which recently filled the pages of this Radical organ, were painful enough to have drawn a tear from the most stony-hearted Tory.

The cruel irony of fate has brought to light numerous cases of Radical intimidation, and the *Daily News* and the Gladstone League are still busy hunting for the wicked peers, squires, and parsons who frightened innocent Radical voters into voting for the Conservative candidate.

## A "Liberal" Offer

The following advertisement appeared recently in the columns of a London paper:—

A BUSINESS MAN, who has worked hard for thirty years, and invested all his earnings in freehold property, wishes to meet a Liberal, who has confidence in his leaders and the future prosperity of this country, to take the same off his hands by valuation, and so allow the present owner to leave the country with his family.

The advertiser is still waiting for the replies.

## The "Black Bread" Commission

Mr. Barnes, the Chairman of the Labour Party, and several of his colleagues, have gone to Germany to search for black bread and horse sausages, and, incidentally, to see the sights. Hitherto the various commissions that have visited Germany have been composed of Free Traders and Tariff Reformers alike, and inquiries have been conducted on strictly independent lines. Mr. Barnes and his associates are, of course, confirmed Free Traders, so the result of their inquiries may be taken as a foregone conclusion. But why was Mr. Chiozza Money omitted from the deputation? The great horse sausage expert would have proved an invaluable adjunct to this "impartial" commission.

## The "Robberies"

Writing to the *Daily Mail*, a correspondent relates the following anecdote concerning Foote:—"A gentleman in company with Foote took up a newspaper, saying he wished to see 'what the Ministry were about.' Foote, with a smile, replied, 'Look among the robberies.'"

No doubt Mr. Lloyd George will appreciate the suggestion.



## "Stand and Deliver"

The people who by their votes succeeded in putting the Radicals into office, will soon be in a position to appreciate the consequences of their misguided action. Peremptory demands for the payment of income tax are already being made. The working classes have shown their resentment at the whisky tax by drinking less, and the new licensing taxation means further burdens on beer. In a few weeks the land taxes will be in full swing, and a busy time is expected at the law courts.

## The Dictator

Radical Cabinet Ministers speak glibly of a measure of Home Rule for Ireland, subordinate to Imperial authority. Mr. Patrick Ford, in the *Irish World* of April 16th, gives the following authorised version, which shows the true inwardness of the Irish demands:—"The Irish leader and the party will support the British Liberal leader in the policy of 'press on' the fight against the House of Lords until its Veto power is utterly abolished and the way clear for the abolition of British rule in Ireland." The Government are merely puppets in the hands of Mr. Redmond, who is, in turn, controlled by Mr. Patrick Ford and the party paymasters.

## Limehouse—and After!

In a presidential message to the *Young Liberal*, the official organ of the National League of Young Liberals, Mr. Walter Runciman, M.P., indulges in the following "modest" definition of Radicalism:—"Liberalism, unlike other political doctrines, is not devoted to the interests of any one class. It is based on a moral code which is even-handed, just, impartial, and generous. In method it is practical. In spirit it is hopeful—although we do not expect to reach the summit of a perfect society by one stupendous leap. . . ." Mr. Winston Churchill had better look to his laurels.

## Subsidising Free Trade

At the last election, we do not know whether the significance of the following incident was sufficiently appreciated. It was, of course, known that our present rulers, the Irish party, practically owe their political existence to money which is being sent to them by sympathisers in America. Something more, however, happened at that time of which less is known. The American nation, which has for so many years used this country as a dumping-ground for its productions, and, in consequence, may be described as "rolling in money," observed that this dumping-ground would disappear if the advocates of Tariff Reform, namely, the Conservative party, were returned to power. It is reported that more than a quarter of a million of money mysteriously found its way into this country from America to aid the supporters of Free Trade. It was well worth while for our astute cousins to find this amount, or ten times the amount, to keep themselves in possession of so valuable an asset. When, therefore, the working-man listens to the stump orator descanting on the blessings of free food, it would be as well for him to ask in whose interests the speaker was acting—whether in those of this country or in those of the American multi-millionaires, and who was paying him!

## The Education Terror

Even heroes are not exempt from the Education Terror. At Grimsby Police-court John Eynon, of Immington, was recently presented by the chairman of the Bench with the Royal Humane Society's certificate and a cheque for £5 for saving life. Shortly afterwards he was placed in the dock and charged with neglecting to send his child to school. The Bench, however, merely warned him. Should Mr. Eynon continue to persist in his belief that this is a free country, we doubt if even his heroic reputation will save him from the education terrorists.

## Correspondence

NOTE.—The Editor invites correspondence

### A COUNTRY RECTOR AND EDUCATION

To the Editor of THE COMMENTATOR

SIR,—Will you allow me to make a few observations on the present system of elementary education, more especially as it affects country districts, of which I have some knowledge. To begin with, one is inclined to ask, "What is education?" and the answer is, briefly, that for the great majority of children it is that which prepares them to take their place in life, or, in other words, that which gives the best preparation for coping with the stern realities of existence. Now, is this what we are getting, and what we are paying heavily for in our elementary schools? I think not. "Look at our improved system of education," say modern faddists; "Look at our boys and girls as they grow to be men and women," says the employer and common-sense observer. And if we do, what do we find? I will give a few instances. A girl in this parish recently left school to go into service, and *did not know how to make an ordinary button-hole*. At a village school I am well acquainted with—and it is a sample of others—the children, all of whom will go on to the land or into service, are taught (1) "brush work," that is, painting from still life; (2) "drawing," not common objects, which might in a few cases prove useful, but flowers placed on the desk right under the nose of the artist—an awkward angle for the most gifted; (3) how to lay a table for four o'clock tea; (4) "nature study," which the children enjoy because they get out into the fresh air, but what they "study," in nine cases out of ten, they never think of again. These instances could be multiplied. Many of the children upon leaving school cannot write an ordinary letter. I had the following from one who had just left school, written none too well, and badly spelt: "Please Mr. — to publish the banns of marriage between A and B, *both spinsters*, of this parish." Very few know how to keep simple accounts, which would be a great help, even to the wage-earner, in the management of the home: many homes are poor and squalid as much owing to bad management as vice. But here again one could go on giving instances of what our present system of education does not do. And the fault lies in the fact that a "Code" has been drawn up by the Board of Education, rigidly applied without the smallest attempt at adaptation. To study the "Code" is to discover the weakness of our present system. The fact is, too much is aimed at, too much time is taken up, and, to my mind, wasted, in attempting to teach what *unfits* rather than *fits* the pupil for after life. Moreover, children are required under penalty to be sent to school *too young*, and in many cases to remain too long. I have heard bitter complaints on this score from both fathers and mothers. A father I know, who is a very hard-working small holder, wanted his boy—a very big, strong, healthy lad, who was always a trouble in the school and never learnt anything—to work on his farm at the age of twelve: he could have been most useful, not to say happy, but he was forced to wait till he was fourteen. A mother with small children and the home to see to would have found her daughter—of the same type as the boy—invaluable, but she must needs go to school till she was fourteen, to have further instruction, forsooth, in nature study, painting, etc. Surely it is time to protest against this state of things; it is not fair to parents or children, and the ill consequences of it are already being seen. It is not fair, either, to those who have to pay for an increasingly expensive system—and it is not *education*.—Yours obediently,

A COUNTRY RECTOR.

LITERARY COMMUNICATIONS, which must be accompanied by stamped addressed envelope, should be addressed to THE EDITOR, THE COMMENTATOR, 3, CLIFFORD'S INN, LONDON, E.C. Every care will be taken to return rejected MSS., but the Editor does not hold himself responsible for loss or damage.





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